

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 01309 251322Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 /024 W  
-----251333Z 036836 /53

R 251314Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9826  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS LONDON 01309

DEFENSE FOR OASD/ISA, CJCS, CSAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, UK

SUBJECT: DEATH OF CHIEF OF UK DEFENSE STAFF (CDS)

1. MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SIR ANDREW HUMPHREY, GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC DIED ON 24 JANUARY FROM COMPLICATIONS STEMMING FROM PNEUMONIA AND SEPTICAEMIA. SIR ANDREW WAS 56 YEARS OLD. AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH SIR ANDREW HAD HELD THE POST OF CDS FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS.

2. ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD ASHMORE, GCB, DSC, ADC, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AND FIRST SEA LORD, HAS BEEN ACTING CDS SINCE SIR ANDREW ENTERED HOSPITAL IN EARLY JANUARY.

3. THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR RESTS WITH THE CABINET. NORMALLY THE CDS ROTATES BETWEEN THE THREE SERVICES AND, IF SIR ANDREW HAD COMPLETED A FULL TERM, IT WOULD BE THE NAVY'S TURN NEXT.

4. SIR ANDREW'S WIDOW, LADY AGNES HUMPHREY LIVES AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, EVENLODE, MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH, UNCLASSIFIED

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE. THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN. LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO LADY HUMPHREY, C/O THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, ROOM 6173, MAIN BUILDING, WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2HB. FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEATHS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DEATH OF CHIEF OF UK DEFENSE STAFF (CDS)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009